LAW GROUP, PLLC

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR EXPERIENCE IN HANDLING CRIMINAL MATTERS

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ATTORNEYS

MEET OUR ATTORNEYS

Arizona Criminal Defense Attorneys: Tomasz Lichwala, Dwane Cates, and Jana Junuz ready to fight for you.

The Firm, founded in 1997 represents persons accused of crimes in any Court in the State of Arizona. The Attorneys at Dwane Cates Law Group, PLLC are dedicated to protecting the rights of persons being investigated for or accused of crimes. If you or someone you love is charged with a crime, we can help. Call Today (855) 525-5986

Personal Service, Reasonable Fees, Effective Representation Since 1997

Client was traveling on I-15 outside of Camp Verde, Arizona when caught with over 750 pounds of marijuana. After being stopped, the client gave a full confession. The client was facing 5-15 years in prison; we were able to arrange a plea for 2.5 years and a fine.

Yavapai County Superior Court, Prescott, Az

Client was charged with criminal speeding. The client was able to go to defensive driving school to dismiss the charge and avoid the points by pleading to civil speeding instead.

Scottsdale City Court, Scottsdale, AZ

SEE OUR
RESULTS

View All Results

Phoenix, Arizona Criminal Law Firm

Last Modified: April 1, 2016 at 8:25 pm

Get the Skill, Knowledge & Experience you Need in a Phoenix Criminal Defense Lawyer

When you are accused of a crime you face the possibility of severe consequences and the damaging effects of a maligned name. While the criminally accused are presumed innocent until proven guilty and have several rights guaranteed them under the U.S Constitution, these rights may be overlooked if you are not aware of them. Therefore, it is vital that you contact a Phoenix, Arizona criminal defense attorney when you learn of your charges to ensure that your rights are protected.

In addition to having an attorney that will protect your rights, you need an attorney with experience in criminal defense that knows the law well and will defend your innocence with skill. An accomplished defense attorney is essential, especially if you are facing severe criminal charges where your basic freedoms are at stake.

Don’t settle with a criminal defense lawyer who you don’t fully trust. Call Cates Law Group, PLLC and speak with the best criminal defense attorneys in Phoenix, AZ. When you need the best criminal defense lawyer in Phoenix, Cates Law Group, PLLC is your answer.

CATES LAW GROUP, PLLC – PHOENIX CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS & LAWYERS

When your innocence in a criminal matter is called into question it is imperative that you seek the counsel of a criminal defense attorney. Police officers and prosecutors are not obligated to act in your best interest; therefore, it is important that you contact an attorney soon after you are aware of your charges. Our Arizona criminal defense attorneys will fight for your rights and be the legal advocate you need. The criminal defense attorneys at Cates Law Group, PLLC are dedicated to protecting your rights and defending you against the criminal charges that you face.

At Cates Law Group, PLLC, we have the experience, knowledge and resources to help you fight the charges that you face. We aggressively defend the rights of those accused of all serious crimes, such as drug crimes, aggravated assault, kidnapping, drive-by-shootings, robbery, murder/homicide, sex crimes,immigration checkpoint violations and domestic violence.

Skill

Cates Law Group, PLLC has years of experience defending clients in a variety of cases from major felonies in federal court to misdemeanors in municipal court.

Phoenix Criminal Defense Lawyers You Can Trust to Fight for You

The founder of the firm, Dwane Cates, practices in the areas of criminal defense law as well as general civil litigation. He has defended clients in courts throughout Arizona, including the Arizona Court of Appeals and the Arizona Supreme Court.

Other case areas include, but are not limited to:

- Assault and Battery
- Business Disputes
- Domestic Violence
- Drug Crimes
- Drug Trafficking
- DUI
- Homicide
- Kidnapping
- Sex Crimes
- Vehicular Manslaughter

Cates Law Group, PLLC represents clients from all over Arizona, including Phoenix,Yuma, Holbrook and St. Johns areas.

Experienced Criminal Lawyers & Defense

Dwane Cates has represented individuals as well as large companies as a plaintiff's lawyer and as a defense lawyer. Mr. Cates and the other Phoenix, AZ criminal defense lawyers at the Cates

Law Group, PLLC have extensive combined successful experience defending the legal rights of their clients who have been accused or charged with a crime in the state of Arizona.

He has experience representing clients at all levels of criminal law from first degree murder cases to misdemeanor DUI cases. Notable experience includes tobacco litigation and law suits against both state and local government. His most high profile cases include the “baby formula” case and the matricide murder case.

No matter the case, Phoenix criminal attorney Dwane Cates and the Cates Law Group, PLLC has the experience to handle your case effectively and at a reasonable rate. Contact us to speak with someone today.

Contact us — we would love the opportunity to earn your business.

PRACTICEAREAS

- Aggravated Assault
- Campus Crime
- Criminal Appeals
- Disorderly Conduct
- Domestic Violence
- Drive By Shooting
- Federal Criminal Offenses
- Kidnapping
- Mental Health Defense
- Murder Charges
- Murder/Homicide
- Probation Violations
- Restraining Order Violations
- Robbery Defense
- Search and Seizure Defense
- Self Defense
- Clemency Initiative

OVER 15 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE DEFENDING OUR CLIENTS

CLIENT REVIEWS
AVERAGE RATING BASED ON 27 REVIEWS
MORE CLIENT REVIEWS

"I hired Dwane Cates to represent my son in a high profile sex crime. I looked up criminal lawyers on the internet and found several that I was interested in. I read Mr. Cates' reveiws and thought he might be too good to be true..." READ MORE

"Attorney Dwane Cates and his staff have left a life-long great impression on me for the constant level of professionalism they exuberated during the entire time of my life-changing ordeal and for the great outcome of my case that came about because of the dedicated, hard work Attorney Cates put in..." READ MORE

"Top Notch Professionalism, the kind of person that 'under-promises and over-delivers'. Dwane got my marijuana possession charges completely dismissed after warning me upfront that there was only 'a 5-10% chance' based on the details of my case..." READ MORE

Tomasz P. Lichwala

Ciminal Defense Lawyer

Tomasz P. Lichwala is an attorney at Dwane Cates Law Group, PLLC. Mr. Lichwala combines his international background with knowledge of both civil-law and common-law systems into a global approach of practicing law.

After receiving his Master of Law degree in Poland, Tomasz continued his legal career and obtained his Juris Doctor degree in the United States. While in law school, he worked for Cates, Hanson, Sargeant, Rakestraw and Schoenau, PLLC, a multi-practice law firm in Arizona and also served as a professor's teaching assistant in contracts law. In addition, he was involved in law school tax clinic and became certified under Internal Revenue Service Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Tomasz also provided pro bono legal assistance during the annual Citizenship Day, a project for immigrants applying for an American citizenship organized by U.S. Congressman, Ed Pastor.
Mr. Lichwala is a member of National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) and also a member of Criminal Justice Section of the State Bar of Arizona. Tomasz defends clients facing criminal charges and investigations by both state and federal government. Additionally, Tomasz served as second chair in a major criminal trial featured by Dateline NBC.

In addition to criminal law and general civil litigation, Mr. Lichwala gained a diverse legal experience working on numerous legal issues in various areas of law, such as business law, civil

forfeiture, contracts, cross-border transactions, international law, immigration law, products liability and personal injury. Tomasz assists clients with all phases of the legal process, including transactional aspect of drafting documents and litigation.

Jana J. Macic

Ciminal Defense Lawyer

Attorney Jana J. Macic is the newest addition to the Dwane Cates Law Group team. She is a member of the Arizona State Bar, and is licensed to practice in the State of Arizona.

Before receiving her Law Degree from Arizona Summit Law School, she graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. As a law student, she participated in many legal internships – most memorable of which was at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands, where she worked for the prosecutorial team of Ratko Mladic – a notorious Serbian war general, who was on trial for various war crimes committed in the Balkan region, including kidnapping and genocide.

She is fluent in both Bosnian and the Serbian language. Upon her return, she continued her criminal law career by completing an extensive internship with the Maricopa County Office of the Legal Defender, where she realized her passions lie in criminal defense work.

Shortly after graduating from Law School, Ms. Macic began working as an Associate Attorney for Dwane Cates Law Group where she remains today. Ms. Macic is a passionate, caring, and devoted criminal defense attorney who strives to achieve the most positive, legal outcome for her clients.

Why Choose Us?

Last Modified: February 11, 2016 at 4:24 pm

we are the best

CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS IN ARIZONA

The law is difficult to understand, often confusing and not on the side of the accused. When you've been accused of a crime in Arizona, whether it is a felony or a misdemeanor, you stand the risk of facing life-altering penalties.

That's why you need an experienced Phoenix, AZ criminal defense attorney from the Cates Law Group, PLLC to stand by your side and defend you against the criminal charges.

WHY DO I NEED A LAWYER?

If you've been accused of a crime, you need someone who has experience with and understands criminal law and can both advise and defend you effectively.

your rights

When it comes to your rights, ignorance can mean the difference between being found guilty of a crime and your freedom. Law enforcement is not on your side; they are trying to solve a case and are trained in extracting information. Sometimes, that means the rights of the accused are trampled in the process; you could that you've implicated yourself, even if you are innocent.

A criminal defense attorney who understands your rights can advise you on the best way to safeguard your future if you are questioned. Cates Law Group, PLLC ensures that with one of our criminal defense lawyers by your side, your rights will not be forgotten. Every accused person deserves a criminal lawyer that will fight for them and their rights entirely.

your defense

Cates Law Group, PLLC, we have over 15 years of experience as criminal defense lawyers that we will put to use in defending you. We start with our own investigation of the crime before we building a strong case on your behalf.

This is your life, and you take it seriously. You want to find the best criminal defense lawyer who will take it just as seriously — a lawyer who will give their best effort in aggressively defending your innocence, your rights and your future.

When it comes to your defense against criminal charges, from DUI to drug crimes and violent crimes, you want a defense from a knowledgeable and skillful criminal defense lawyer. At Cates Law Group, PLLC, we will fight aggressively to get the best outcome possible for your case. You will have peace of mind knowing that we will stand by your side to protect your rights, your innocence and your future. Contact us immediately to learn about the best options for your case.

CALL (855) 525-5986 TO SCHEDULE A FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL LEGAL CONSULTATION WITH A CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY TODAY!

Homicide/ Murder Defense Attorney

Last Modified: April 1, 2016 at 8:38 pm

Murder is the taking of another person's life. But when it comes to punishing those convicted of murder/homicide, there are careful distinctions made to differentiate the severity and nature of the crime. In Phoenix, murder/homicide is divided into four classifications: negligent homicide, manslaughter, second degree murder and first degree murder (the most serious of the four classifications). Each of these crimes are serious offenses that carry strict mandatory sentencing.

Negligent homicide occurs when someone kills another person through criminal negligence. Criminal negligence refers to a person's inability to see the potential danger their action will bring to other people. This includes things like vehicular homicide and other alcohol or drug impaired accidents. Negligent homicide is a class 4 felony.

Manslaughter occurs when someone's reckless behavior kills another person. Recklessness is defined as knowingly endangering the lives of other people through irresponsible behavior. Manslaughter crimes often are crimes of passion that occur in the heat of the moment and are punishable as class 2 felony.

Contact our Phoenix homicide attorneys at (855) 525-5986 to schedule a free initial consultation.

Second degree murder occurs when someone intentionally kills another person through an act that was not premeditated. This includes vehicular homicide and other acts where an individual intentionally kills another human being. Second degree murder is a class 1 felony punishable by up to 25 years in prison with no parole.

First degree murder occurs when someone takes the life of another human being through a premeditated and intentional act. This is the most serious degree of murder and is punishable as a class 1 felony. The consequences for a first degree murder conviction are steep, including life in prison or death.

Call for a Free Consultation with a Phoenix, AZ Homicide/Murder Defense Attorney

If you have been arrested, contact our **Phoenix homicide/murder defense attorneys** as soon as possible. An attorney can make sure your rights were upheld during your arrest and ensure that your rights are protected throughout your criminal proceedings. At Cates Law Group, PLLC, our attorneys work diligently to get our clients the best possible outcome for their situation. We utilize the in-depth legal knowledge of our team of Arizona criminal defense lawyers to develop solid legal defenses for clients that are accused of murder homicide. Our attorneys will take the time to thoroughly investigate the claims against you, and work strategically to get your charges reduced or dropped.

As with any criminal matter, it is imperative to speak with an attorney as soon as you are arrested or as soon as you think you will be arrested. Having an attorney present early on can make a big

difference. At Cates Law Group, PLLC, our Arizona criminal defense lawyers are always available and prepared to offer you the solid legal advice you need.

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Arizona Criminal Defense Attorneys: Tomasz Lichwala, Dwane Cates, and Jana Junuz ready to fight for you.

The Firm, founded in 1997 represents persons accused of crimes in any Court in the State of Arizona. The Attorneys at Dwane Cates Law Group, PLLC are dedicated to protecting the rights of persons being investigated for or accused of crimes. If you or someone you love is charged with a crime, we can help. Call Today (855) 525-5986

Recent Results

Last Modified: February 27, 2016 at 3:18 am

Client facing a probation violation warrant, had not reported for over three months and failed drug tests. Reinstated on probation. **Maricopa County Superior Court.**

Client charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, charges dismissed. **Maricopa County Superior Court.**

Client charged with possession of Cocaine with two prior felony convictions. Charges dismissed. **Maricopa County Superior Court.**

Client charged with Possession of Marijuana for sale over 200 pounds, plead to simple possession probation no jail. **Maricopa County Superior Court.**

Client charged with possession of Marijuana, diversion program all charged dropped. **Maricopa County Superior Court.**

Client charged with transportation of Marijuana for sale over 25 pounds. Plead to Possession for sale, probation 60 days jail. Maricopa County Superior Court.Client was traveling on I-15 outside of Camp Verde, Arizona when caught with over 750 pounds of marijuana. After being stopped, the client gave a full confession. The client was facing 5-15 years in prison; we were able to arrange a plea for 2.5 years and a fine. **(Yavapai County Superior Court, Prescott, AZ)**

Client was facing mandatory prison of up to 12.5 years after being caught with 150 pounds of marijuana near St. Johns, Arizona on I-40. We filed a motion to suppress evidence based upon the nature of the traffic stop. The prosecution agreed and our client was given a term of probation with no jail time. **(Apache County Superior Court, St. Johns, Arizona)**

Client was charged with two counts of sexual conduct with a minor (Statutory Rape). She was facing grave consequences: prison time, lifetime registration as a sex offender and sex offender probation. She came to us after her original attorney wanted her to plead guilty and face the sentence listed above. When we took over the case, we learned that she had not been read her rights; so, we had her incriminating statements made to the police suppressed. When her own words could not be used against her, the prosecution agreed to a plea of misdemeanor child abuse with no jail, no sex offender registration, no felony and only 18 months standard probation. **(Maricopa County Superior Court, Phoenix, AZ)**

Client was charged with a serious drug crime when he was caught with 28 grams of Cocaine at the Immigration Checkpoint on State Highway 95 North of Yuma, Arizona. At the time, he was also on probation in California. As his case was proceeding, the client got accused of another drug charge in California and was convicted. We were able to get the prosecutor to plead the case to a probation eligible offense. Originally, the judge wanted to reject the plea and send him

to prison; but, after additional hearings we were able get the client 3 years probation with no jail time. We also got permission for him to live in California. **(Yuma County Superior Court, Yuma, Arizona)**

Client was facing a minimum of five years in federal prison after being caught with four Kilos of Cocaine (approx. 9 pounds). We were able to obtain a plea agreement and the client received probation with no jail time. **(Federal District Court, District of Arizona, Phoenix)**

Client was out on a felony warrant for possession of marijuana while having had a prior conviction for the same. We got the warrant nullified without the client being taken into custody and plead the case to a misdemeanor; this resulted in unsupervised probation with no jail time. **(Maricopa County Superior Court, Phoenix, Arizona)**

Client was charged with Aggravated Assault. The case was proceeding and set to trial. We got the case dismissed after filing a challenge to the Grand Jury proceedings. **(Maricopa County Superior Court, Phoenix, AZ)**

Client was charged with domestic violence assault in Glendale City Court. We got the case dismissed and the client enrolled in a diversion program. **(Glendale City Court, Glendale, AZ)**

Client was charged with criminal speeding. The client was able to go to defensive driving school to dismiss the charge and avoid the points by pleading to civil speeding instead. **(Scottsdale City Court, Scottsdale, AZ)**

Client charged with Extreme DUI (BAC of .190) was facing a mandatory 30-day jail sentence. Our aggressive negotiation enabled the client to **plead to Non-Extreme DUI** and serve only three days in jail. **(Tempe Municipal Court, Tempe, Arizona)**

Client charged with DUI Drugs and Regular DUI was facing a mandatory one-year license suspension and jail time. We were able to get the **charge reduced** to Reckless Driving. **(Buckeye Municipal Court, Buckeye AZ)**

Client faced possible felony charges for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. We were able to negotiate with the prosecution for our client to **plead to Misdemeanor Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**. Our client only had to pay a small fine. **(Scottsdale City Court, Scottsdale, Arizona)**

Client charged with Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. We aggressively fought for our client's best interest and the **charges were dismissed**. **(Wellton Justice Court, Wellton, AZ)**

Client charged with Conspiracy to Possess Marijuana for sale, Possession of Marijuana for sale, Money Laundering, and Possession of a Gun in a Drug Crime and was facing up to 30 years in prison. We were able to get the **case dismissed before trial**. **(Maricopa County Superior Court, Phoenix, Arizona)**

Client charged with two counts of kidnapping and two counts of child molestation and was facing two consecutive life sentences. Our experienced Arizona criminal defense lawyers were able to **reduce the charges** to one count of attempted child molestation and one count of attempted kidnapping. The client was sentenced to one year in jail and lifetime probation. **(Maricopa County Superior Court, Mesa, AZ)**

Client charged with Domestic Violence Assault. Our experienced criminal defense attorneys were able to get the **charges dismissed**. **(Phoenix Municipal Court, Phoenix, Arizona)**

Client charged with Felony DUI and Felony Car Theft and was facing up to 5 years in prison. We were able to get the client to **plead to probation** and four months prison. **(Maricopa County Superior Court, Glendale Regional Court Center, Glendale, Arizona)**

Client charged with four counts of child molestation and was facing four life sentences. With our aggressive legal representation, the client was able to plead to three counts of attempted child molestation and received a sentence of one year in jail and life time probation. **(Maricopa County Superior Court, Phoenix, AZ)**

Client charged with Transportation of Marijuana For Sale, over 17 pounds, Possession of Narcotic Drugs For Sale and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Our experienced attorneys enabled our client to**plead to Attempted Possession of Marijuana For Sale**. The client received a 60 day jail sentence and probation. **(Mohave County Superior Court, Kingman, Arizona)**

Client charged with Felony Possession of Marijuana and Felony Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. We were able to negotiate with the prosecution for our client to **plead to misdemeanor** with no jail time, unsupervised probation, and permission to live out of state. **(Kingman Justice Court, Kingman, Arizona)**

Client charged with 26 federal counts of Mortgage Fraud, Bank Fraud, Wire Fraud, and conspiracy to commit the same and was facing a 25 to 30 year prison sentence. Our Arizona criminal defense lawyers enabled our client to **plead to one count of Conspiracy** and only 48 months prison. **(Federal Court, District of Arizona, Phoenix, AZ)**

Client charged with underage drinking. We were able to get the client placed in a diversion program with **charges to be dropped** upon completion of the program. **(Tucson City Court, Tucson, Arizona)**

Client charged with Extreme DUI. Our skilled attorneys were able to get the **charges dismissed** **(Prescott City Court, Prescott, AZ)**

Client charged with money laundering. We were able to get the **charges dropped**. **(Maricopa County Superior Court, Phoenix, AZ)**

Client was traveling in a rental car with out of state plates when they were pulled over and given a warning ticket along I-40 for going 5 mph over the speed limit. The Officer walked a drug dog around the car after the warning ticket was administered and found over 140 pounds of marijuana, 40,000 cash and narcotic drugs. Our client was charged with transportation and possession of marijuana for sale and was facing 5-10 years in prison. We were able to get our

client to **plead to attempted possession of marijuana for sale** with only 1.5 years in prison. **(Coconino Superior Court, Flagstaff, Arizona)**

Client was stopped at the I-8 Immigration checkpoint where they were searched by dogs and charged with Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Drug paraphernalia. We were able to get the **charges dismissed**. **(Wellton Justice Court, Wellton Arizona)**

Client charged with Possession of Prescription Drugs—a class four felony— and was facing a 2.5 year prison sentence. We were able to get our client placed in diversion program and **charges were dismissed**. **(Superior Court, Phoenix)**

Client charged with three counts of Armed Robbery (class 2 dangerous felonies) and three counts of Kidnapping (class 2 dangerous felonies); each count carried a ten year presumptive prison sentence. Our experienced Arizona criminal defense attorneys were able to get our client to **plead to unlawful use of a credit card** with only six months in prison and no probation. **(Maricopa County Superior Court, Phoenix)**

Client charged with Theft of Means of Transportation (a class 5 felony) and was facing 1.5 years in prison. We were able to get our client to plead to Misdemeanor Disorderly Conduct with no probation and a $500 fine. **(Prescott / Camp Verde Yavapai Superior Court)**

Client with two prior felony convictions was charged with Possession of 12 pounds of Marijuana For Sale and was facing 9.5 years of mandatory prison time. We were able to get our **client to plead to probation** with no jail time. **(Maricopa County Superior Court Phoenix)**

Client charged with eleven counts of burglary; two of these counts were designated as dangerous with mandatory prison sentences. Our client **received probation**. **(Prescott)**

Client charged with murder. We were able to get our client to plead to Possession of Marijuana and he**received probation**. **(Phoenix, Maricopa County Superior Court)**

Client charged with aggravated assault that designated dangerous and carried a mandatory prison sentence. Our client was able to **plead to twelve months probation**. **(Phoenix, Maricopa County Superior Court)**

Client was charged with 24 counts of bank fraud, wire fraud, and conspiracy in Federal Court. We were able to get **23 counts dismissed**. **(Phoenix Federal Court)**

Client charged with Second Degree Murder. The case was featured on Dateline NBC. After a two month jury trial the defendant was wrongfully convicted. After the conviction attorney Dwane Cates was able to get the verdict thrown out and the Defendant released from jail. The case is still pending in the Court of appeals.
http://www.nbcnews.com/dateline/video/in-the-dead-of-night–part-11-454073923952

Client charged with Felony Endangerment for a traffic accident that she was not involved in. After extensive investigation and use of expert witnesses our attorneys got the case dismissed. **(Maricopa County Superior Court, Phoenix, Arizona.)**

Client charged with eluding police and felony flight. Client was facing a felony charge and prison time. Case was plead to a misdemeanor with unsupervised probation. **(Yavapai County Superior Court, Prescott, Arizona.)**

Client charged with Aggravated Assault with a deadly weapon during a road rage incident. The experienced attorneys at Dwane Cates Law Group go the charges dismissed and the client released from custody. **(Peoria, Arizona)**

Client pulled over near Holbrook Arizona on I-40. Found with 240 pounds of Marijuana in his pick up. The client was facing 7+ years in prison because of a prior felony conviction. After attorney Tomasz Lichwala challenged the stop and the Drug Dog?s training he was able to plea bargain the case to Probation with 120 days jail. **(Navajo County Superior Court, Holbrook Arizona.)**

Client pulled over with 50 pounds of Marijuana in the car along with a large sum of cash. The attorneys were able to keep the charges from being filed. **(Maricopa County Superior Court.)**

Client arrested at a residence where the police found a large amount of Marijuana. Client was charged with drug trafficking and a probation violation. Attorney Jana Junez was able to get the marijuana charges dismissed and later the probation violation. **(Client was released from custody. Phoenix Arizona.**

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